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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. KHOUINI	(Tunisia)
later:	Mr. ALSAIDI (Vice-Chairman)	(Yemen)
later:	Mr. KHOUINI	(Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/SPC/47/L.7 and L.8, A/47/253, A/47/386, A/47/597 and A/47/604)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bolivia, Niger and Peru had become sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.8.

2. Mr. MALONE (Canada), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects", contained in document A/SPC/47/L.7, said that United Nations peace-keeping activities had expanded tremendously over the past year. Not only had the number of operations increased, in countries such as Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Mozambique, but the functions of peace-keeping missions now included military, political, humanitarian, economic and social goals.

3. Overall, peace-keeping forces had grown from the approximately 11,500 military and police personnel deployed at the beginning of 1991 to the over 55,000 anticipated at the end of 1992. Despite that rapid expansion, the financial foundation for peace-keeping remained insecure, and that was giving rise to concern among many Member States over the Organization's ability to meet increasing demands for activities related to peace-keeping.

4. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.7 was based on previous resolutions on peace-keeping adopted by the General Assembly, the reports of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/47/253 and A/47/386) and informal consultations recently conducted by the sponsors with interested States.

5. In the preambular section, reference was made not only to the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), but also to the analysis and consideration of the question by the General Assembly and the statement on the subject issued by the President of the Security Council on 29 October 1992 (S/24728). The definition of peacemaking had been updated to correspond with that given in "An Agenda for Peace", and a reference had been added to the need for better management of peace-keeping resources.

6. The resolution was divided into four sections: resources, finances, organization and effectiveness, and development of peace-keeping. There was also a concluding section regarding the future work and methods of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

7. In the section on resources, Member States were encouraged to advise the Secretary-General what forces they were willing to provide to the United Nations on short notice. In the section on finances, the draft resolution reiterated the need to maintain the accepted principles and guidelines on the financing of peace-keeping operations, recognized the need for an enhanced peace-keeping staff in the Secretariat, and asked the Secretary-General to report on ways of effecting that enhancement.

(Mr. Malone, Canada)

8. The section on organization and effectiveness included a reference to the establishment by the General Assembly of an open-ended working group on "An Agenda for Peace", and the concluding section encouraged the Special Committee to consider holding an intersessional meeting as soon as possible to discuss that report.

9. The sponsors were aware that the resolution was a lengthy one and had made efforts to delete, condense or amalgamate certain paragraphs. The resolution was a clear reflection of the increasing interest of Member States in peace-keeping activities.

10. Mr. Alsaidi (Yemen), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

11. The CHAIRMAN announced that Croatia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.8.

12. Mr. BUTLER (Australia) said that the collapse of the bipolar structure which had underpinned international relations since the establishment of the United Nations had fundamentally changed the international political environment and brought with it greater challenges to the United Nations.

13. The number of military personnel engaged in peace-keeping operations had quadrupled over the past 12 months, and would soon exceed 50,000. The number of civilian personnel deployed in such operations had also increased dramatically. Over one third of the Members of the United Nations were contributing personnel to the 12 current peace-keeping operations. Peace-keeping missions had also become more complex, as they now covered such diverse tasks as the protection of human rights, the organization and conduct of elections, the demobilization of forces, the repatriation of refugees and the rehabilitation of infrastructure.

14. With regard to the financing of such operations, he said it was worrying that, in some cases, some countries were now bearing their own costs for aspects of the United Nations operation in the Balkans. It was also worrying that the United Nations had experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining sufficient contributors for the expansion of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

15. Australia's contribution to United Nations peace-keeping activities, both in financial and personnel terms, had increased dramatically over the past year. It was currently involved in six peace-keeping operations; in addition, Australian defence force personnel were deployed on United Nations humanitarian operations. Australia's current participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations represented the largest overseas deployment of Australian troops in the past 20 years.

16. Australia regarded the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111) as extremely important. It noted, however, that many of the recommendations contained therein had been made previously by the Special

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. It was therefore important to implement those recommendations as soon as possible rather than to wait until a decision had been made on all the report's recommendations. The Special Committee could make a considerable contribution to the consideration of the report, particularly in the area of peace-keeping and related activities, and Australia therefore recommended that consideration should be given to the possibility of holding an intersessional meeting early in 1993 to consider the report further.

17. His delegation supported the proposals of the President of the Security Council concerning the establishment of stand-by forces, the augmentation of the Secretariat staff dealing with peace-keeping, and the establishment of an enhanced peace-keeping planning staff in the Secretariat. It also strongly supported the draft resolution to be introduced by the Ukrainian representative (A/SPC/47/L.8).

18. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, but was convinced that it lacked sufficient resources to plan new peace-keeping missions effectively or to manage and coordinate existing ones. Although it was necessary to augment those areas of the Secretariat dealing with peace-keeping, that should be done only when the role and tasks of the new Department had been clearly identified. In that connection, the sections of the Field Operations Division whose task it was to support peace-keeping operations should be placed under the Department.

19. Australia had long supported the establishment of a reserve fund on which the Secretary-General could draw for resources to get peace-keeping operations under way without delay. The Secretary-General had asked for $50 million to be allocated to the Fund. His delegation believed that that amount was not sufficient to provide for current needs. At least $150 million should be allocated to the Fund.

20. His Government supported the innovative proposal put forward by the Japanese delegation in the Fifth Committee for a peace-keeping start-up fund within the Working Capital Fund, financed from surplus contributions. That proposal should be considered in the very near future.

21. During the meetings of the Special Committee's open-ended working group in May, Canada had proposed that a document should be drafted outlining a United Nations logistics concept and the related procedures. The lack of an agreed logistics doctrine was one of the major impediments to more effective logistics planning and his delegation therefore recommended that the Secretariat should initiate the project as a matter of urgency.

22. In conclusion, his delegation supported the proposal that the Secretary-General should examine the feasibility of establishing a system of peace-keeping fellowships and recommended that funds from the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces should be used for that purpose.

23. Mr. KHANDOGY (Ukraine), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.8, entitled "Protection of peace-keeping personnel", announced that the delegations of Belarus, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, India, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Philippines and the United States of America had joined the original sponsors. The draft resolution had been prompted by the alarming situation with regard to the safety of United Nations peace-keeping personnel and the Organization's duty to voice its deep concern about the growing number of fatalities and injuries occurring during peace-keeping operations.

24. He then read out the draft resolution and announced that, as a result of consultations and with a view to obtaining the maximum possible support for the draft resolution, the sponsors had introduced two minor amendments: in paragraph 7, the word "new" should be inserted before "peace-keeping operation", and in paragraph 8, the words "the Force Commander and the Secretariat" should be replaced by "the Secretary-General". He emphasized that the draft resolution was not intended to raise any controversial issues but was prompted by purely humanitarian concerns. The sponsors therefore appealed to all delegations to look at it from that standpoint and to adopt it by consensus.

25. Mr. ZEGHIB (Algeria) said that the concept of peace-keeping operations did not exist in the United Nations Charter: the idea of establishing operations of that kind had arisen precisely because the machinery provided for in the Charter could not be used on account of the cold war. Since the Security Council had been unable to reach agreement, it had been the General Assembly which had initiated such operations. However, with the end of the cold war, the Security Council had been able to resort on two occasions to Chapter VII of the Charter and at the same time peace-keeping operations had multiplied, which might seem contradictory.

26. While bearing in mind the need for flexibility and the special nature of each peace-keeping operation, it would be wise to establish general criteria for such operations and to define the function of each of the participants: the Security Council, the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, the parties concerned and the Member States. In his report, the Secretary-General put forward various proposals regarding the possibility of using peace-keeping operations as part of preventive diplomacy. Article 1 of the Charter explicitly established the preventive function of the United Nations and Article 99 gave the Secretary-General special powers in that connection. At the same time, United Nations preventive measures should take advantage of the opportunities offered by the regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. The possibilities offered by those Articles should be studied further.

27. As far as the feasibility of dispatching peace-keeping missions of a preventive character was concerned, the issue seemed to raise more problems than it solved, for example, which authority should define a possible conflict, the criteria for defining such a conflict, the acceptance of the parties, and so on. The dispatch of preventive missions could be very costly, particularly bearing in mind that their duration could not be foreseen. In

(Mr. Zeghib, Algeria)

that connection, a time-limit might be set in advance, in addition to the specific objectives.

28. So far as the financing of peace-keeping operations was concerned, all Member States should meet their financial commitments, although in view of their political and economic circumstances, it was not desirable to change the current system for calculating contributions. It was necessary once again to underscore that the specific responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council entailed proportional financial commitments; moreover, it was vital to take into account the payment capacities of the rich countries in comparison with those of the third world.

29. As a troop contributor, Algeria had had to face certain problems as a result of the insufficient personnel allocated for the start-up of operations. In that regard, Algeria hoped that future reports of the Secretary-General would devote more attention to some of the structural and administrative problems.

30. Mr. MURTAZA (Pakistan) emphasized the importance of peace-keeping operations in the maintenance of international peace and security. Over the years, peace-keeping had evolved and acquired new dimensions such as election monitoring and humanitarian assistance.

31. Pakistan was benefiting from one such operation, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), and was grateful to the troop-contributing countries for their participation in that operation and to the personnel of UNMOGIP for its dedication. Furthermore, Pakistan was increasingly involved in other operations. Approximately 2,000 Pakistanis, including military observers, troops and civilian police monitors were participating in the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

32. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General "An Agenda for Peace", Pakistan would take part in a constructive debate within the open-ended working group of the General Assembly and in the future sessions of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. In his report, the Secretary-General had highlighted the need for parties to cooperate in the implementation of the mandate of peace-keeping operations. No State could use the argument of consent as a pretext to undermine the mandate of a peace-keeping operation established by the Security Council, particularly when the area in question was under dispute or foreign occupation. In such situations, the consent of the occupying authority could not be made a precondition to the establishment or continuation of an operation by United Nations forces.

33. Nor could parties be permitted unilaterally to alter or dilute the mandate of a peace-keeping operation. It was important that the mandate, character and duration of a peace-keeping operation established by the

(Mr. Murtaza, Pakistan)

Security Council could not be changed without an express decision by the Council. Peace-keeping operations were not an end in themselves, but an essential ingredient of the process of conflict resolution. Accordingly, it was essential that operations established to maintain peace remained in place while negotiations were in progress and until the problem was resolved; emphasis should be placed on resolving the problem rather than on imposing any specific time-limit on peace-keeping measures.

34. Equally essential for peace-keeping operations were the availability of personnel as well as adequate resources, and in that connection his delegation was pleased to note the recommendation, contained in section I, paragraph 9, of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.7, encouraging Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their willingness to provide forces or capabilities for peace-keeping operations. Pakistan, for its part, offered to designate specific units for such operations.

35. With regard to financing, it was essential that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. It was also necessary to take into account the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council, as well as certain economic considerations. His delegation agreed to the establishment of a reserve fund for that purpose.

36. Improved coordination between the different offices of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with peace-keeping operations was necessary, as well as between those offices and troop-contributing countries. Those two aspects should be addressed in the reorganization of the offices dealing with peace-keeping operations. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility of establishing a United Nations peace-keeping fellowship programme (A/47/604) and hoped that the project would be translated into reality.

37. With regard to the issue of the safety of United Nations peace-keeping personnel, Pakistan believed that the "Blue Helmets" should be respected at all times by all concerned parties, and consequently fully supported draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.8 before the Committee.

38. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) highlighted the importance of the report of the Secretary-General "An Agenda for Peace" and hoped that its proposals would be speedily implemented. His delegation joined those delegations which fully supported the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in the endeavours to establish an efficient mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes and other emergency situations.

39. The United Nations had for decades been successfully carrying out peace-keeping operations, in which it could count on the support of an increasing number of Member States. Romania intended to broaden its participation in those efforts, within the framework of the United Nations and regional structures. It had already offered its services and would shortly submit concrete details on the subject, on the basis of the updated questionnaire which the Secretariat would issue.

(Mr. Popescu, Romania)

40. His delegation wished to highlight a few elements with regard to peace-keeping and related activities which, in its view, were of particular importance for the establishment of a more reliable system of collective security. The significant increase in the number and size of United Nations peace-keeping operations, and in some cases their higher level of complexity, required the strengthening of the capability to prepare and conduct such activities. In that task, the United Nations should continue to be the focus for the coordination of all the efforts undertaken in the field of maintaining peace. Recognition should also be shown for the actions of Member States that contributed to those endeavours by making available their facilities for training, early-warning, conducting and carrying out complex operations.

41. Furthermore, it was necessary to work towards a more effective procedure for establishing clear and practical arrangements between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries. The provisions of those arrangements should be in compliance with the obligations assumed by the parties concerned, the security of United Nations staff and further measures which could be taken by the United Nations in respect of non-compliance by any of the parties with the previously agreed code of conduct.

42. With regard to cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements at different stages of development in emergency situations, the revitalization of Chapter VIII of the Charter was a necessity in the search for practical ways of preventing and settling regional conflicts. The recent contributions of regional organizations and arrangements to the achievement of the objectives of the Charter were more encouraging, and Member States should be made more responsible for their unique position and capacity to provide assistance for the maintenance or restoration of peace and stability in the countries of their region through preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.

43. The United Nations should be directly involved in supervising the whole process on a permanent basis, especially since regional arrangements were carrying on large-scale peace-keeping operations and the parties involved were requesting, in particular, that the United Nations should monitor such activities. If regional arrangements and organizations were taking the main responsibility for defusing tensions and seeking solutions to conflicts, the United Nations should assist them with expertise and other appropriate means for ensuring respect for the practices and principles applicable to United Nations operations. It would also be useful to submit periodic reports to the relevant United Nations bodies, namely the Security Council, on ways of conducting those operations in accordance with United Nations standards.

44. In conclusion, his delegation expressed its unreserved support for the two draft resolutions before the Committee, which would help to improve the planning, execution and management of peace-keeping operations.

45. Mr. MARTINEZ (Colombia) said that Colombia attached great importance to peace-keeping operations in which it had participated during the previous 40 years by contributing police forces and military observers. That collaboration with the United Nations continued currently in operations in El Salvador, Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia, the Sinai and Angola. In that connection, he reiterated the concern, expressed by his country's delegation to the General Assembly, that the process of selecting contingents from the different countries should use equitable and impartial criteria, since there had been cases in which the principles of universality, such as non-discrimination on the basis of language and culture, had not been observed in the selection of contingents.

46. His delegation was concerned by the fact that the peace-keeping operations failed to observe the very principles that led to the intervention of the United Nations, and expressed the hope that those responsible for such operations would be appreciative of the generosity with which Member States provided contingents and of the need to ensure that the most elementary procedures of fairness were respected in the selection and management of contingents.

47. His delegation also agreed with the need to improve the administrative mangement of the United Nations. In that regard he noted that, owing to the rapidity with which peace-keeping operations were conducted and their enormous scale, it had not been possible to consider thoroughly the serious observations made by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions and by the Board of Auditors on the administrative deficiencies in the planning and execution of such operations.

48. He also stressed the importance of prompt payment of contributions by Member States to the budget of peace-keeping operations. In that regard, his delegation believed that the political responsibility inherent in such contributions far transcended the absolute or relative financial burden which they might represent in national budgets.

49. With regard to the report contained in document A/47/386, his delegation underlined the importance which it attached to the establishment of the Working Group within the General Assembly in relation to agenda item 10. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping" (A/47/277-S/24111) was an extremely important document which, with its own internal logic, should therefore be discussed and analysed as a whole, without fragmentation.

50. Mr. THAN (Malaysia) said that the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/47/253) would certainly be a useful guide for the conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations, which had been given increasingly complex mandates and tasks, including monitoring of human rights situations, supervising the conduct of elections, verifying the implementation of agreements by the parties in conflict, and the training of peace-keepers. The report should be examined in the light of the document presented by the Secretary-General which contained "An Agenda for Peace" encompassing the whole

(Mr. Than, Malaysia)

spectrum of preventive diplomacy and the peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building capacity of the United Nations.

51. His delegation fully agreed that the role of the United Nations peace-keeping forces should be expanded, particularly at the current time when there was an international consensus on the central role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of maintaining international peace, security and stability. In that regard, he noted with concern the financial crisis facing the United Nations, which could seriously impede its ability to carry out its enormous workload and, in particular, its peace-keeping activities. It was imperative for Member States to make their financial contributions to peace-keeping operations in a timely manner.

52. The current financial crisis was not only undermining the ability of the United Nations to perform its tasks, but could encourage the application of selective or double standards in addressing threats to international peace and security. The tragedy in Bosnia and Herzegovina was one clear example where the financial crisis, in a way, had been the reason for inadequate action by the United Nations, and precedents had been established, as in the case of resolution 770 (1992), where only countries which could afford to make their own military contributions to UNPROFOR in order to ensure the safety of the humanitarian relief efforts on behalf of the beleaguered people of Bosnia and Herzegovina were able to participate.

53. If that situation was allowed to continue, the United Nations would in fact be encouraging the participation of a few rich nations in peace-keeping operations, moving away from the concept of their universality through the broadest possible participation and representation reflecting the common interests of the international community in the maintenance of global peace and security. The principles and guidelines on the financing of all United Nations peace-keeping operations must be observed at all costs.

54. In order to improve the current financial situation, sources of financial contribution should be diversified, to include voluntary contributions from Member States and from regional, non-governmental and private organizations. In that connection, his delegation supported the idea of an in-depth study of the issue of supplementing assessed contributions by diversified financial resources.

55. The Secretary-General's proposal to secure financial arrangements for the start-up phase of a new peace-keeping operation through the establishment of a revolving peace-keeping reserve fund at a level of $50 million appeared especially interesting. The suggestion that peace-keeping contributions should be financed from the defence rather than the foreign affairs budget of Member States was also practical. However, his delegation had some reservations regarding the Secretary-General's proposals to establish a United Nations Peace Endowment Fund of $1 billion, to impose commercial rates of interest on late payment of assessed contributions, and to borrow commercially to remedy the deepening deficit of United Nations financing for its activities and operations.

(Mr. Than, Malaysia)

56. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations in order to meet the quantitative and qualitative demands of such missions, but a more unified and integrated structure should be created within that Department with clear lines of responsibility and accountability. In order to increase further the effectiveness and efficiency of peace-keeping operations, his delegation supported the recommendation that the Secretary-General should conduct a study on ways to prevent duplication of work and responsibility of civilian and military staff in the field and to improve their interaction and cooperation in fulfilling their assigned duties.

57. Malaysia recognized that training formed one of the essential elements in enhancing the effectiveness of peace-keeping operations, and fully understood the financial limitations on the United Nations to embark on comprehensive training programmes covering all aspects of peace-keeping. Although it welcomed the initiative of some Member States which had offered to provide training to international staff as well as their own personnel engaged in peace-keeping operations, it favoured a more coordinated and consolidated approach to such training, to be administered by the United Nations Secretariat, in order to link national and regional training programmes.

58. Regarding the security of peace-keeping operations, it was imperative that the United Nations should take all necessary measures to ensure the highest possible level of safety. In that regard, his delegation hoped to see, in the near future, the formulation of an international legal instrument for the protection of United Nations peace-keeping personnel.

59. Because of the high cost of peace-keeping operations, they should be of a temporary nature and should not be regarded as substitutes for long-term political settlement of a conflict. Malaysia supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General concerning the use of military force and preventive diplomacy to deter a possible aggressor, and for that reason, had supported the use of such measures in order to uphold the rule of law. However, it was necessary to proceed with caution to avoid violating the sovereignty of States and interfering in their internal affairs.

60. In conclusion, his delegation reiterated its support to peace-keeping operations and recalled that Malasyia had contributed military and police personnel to United Nations operations such as UNIKOM, UNAVEM II, MINURSO, UNTAC and UNOSGI.

61. Mr. JACOVIDES (Cyprus) said that, while the positive and historic developments of the past few years had raised hopes for a new world order free from the inequities and insecurities of the past, the fall of ideological barriers had unleashed forces which jeopardized the process of democratization and the cohesion of States. In a context of growing disparity between rich and poor, immense debt, ecological damage, a growing number of refugees and continuing massive human rights violations, the United Nations was called upon to play a role hitherto constrained by the East-West confrontation. Therefore, his delegation welcomed the initiative taken in 1992 at the

(Mr. Jacovides, Cyprus)

Security Council Summit Meeting which had resulted in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111).

62. His delegation supported the belief underlying that report that the securing of international peace and security was not confined to preventing or solving military issues but also encompassed political, economic, legal, social, humanitarian and environmental issues. It also endorsed the Secretary-General's view that, in the maintenance of international peace and security, the principles of the Charter must be applied consistently, not selectively.

63. The enormous increase in the number and scope of peace-keeping operations in the past few years demonstrated their importance to the international community as a means of reaching its primary objective of ensuring international peace and security. However, that imposed new burdens on the ability of the Organization to respond to problems of logistics, equipment, personnel and finance. Particularly with regard to financing, the growing disparity between the ever-rising demand and the funds available was alarming.

64. His delegation strongly believed that peace-keeping was a collective responsibility and that Member States should pay their assessments in full and on time. The current scale of assessments was the only viable mechanism for the financing of peace-keeping operations. Also, the specific suggestions of the Secretary-General for improving the financial situation were worthy of support, including the immediate establishment of a revolving peace-keeping reserve fund of $50 million, and the suggestions to improve the efficiency of such operations, including the training of personnel and the strengthening of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. The idea of keeping certain equipment on stand-by for United Nations use when needed was also valuable.

65. The Secretary-General's ideas concerning cooperation with regional organizations were also worthy of support, provided that the principle that the United Nations had the primary responsibility for ensuring international peace and security was not undermined. Another major aspect of peace-keeping operations that should be addressed urgently was the safety of personnel, which was also the subject of constructive suggestions in the report referred to.

66. Cyprus was a case study not only in the field of peace-keeping but also in the area of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking. As early as December 1963, Cyprus had requested United Nations assistance when threatened with acts of intervention by a much stronger neighbour, at which time the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) had been established. Following the 1974 invasion, the Security Council and the General Assembly had unanimously adopted resolutions demanding respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Cyprus and an immediate end to the foreign military intervention. UNFICYP had supervised the cease-fire, fulfilled its role in an admirable manner and also carried out humanitarian functions.

(Mr. Jacovides, Cyprus)

67. Nevertheless, after 18 years, the Cyprus problem remained unresolved, while UNFICYP faced serious financial problems, which were analysed in the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in September 1992 (S/24581). Those difficulties should be resolved urgently and the role of UNFICYP should not be jeopardized by altering its structure or reducing its strength because that would adversely affect the possibilities for a peaceful outcome of the Cyprus problem and expose the country to the threat of occupation by a powerful foreign army.

68. Despite the tremendous upheaval and catastrophic consequences resulting from the 1974 invasion, Cyprus had always made substantial contributions to defray the costs of UNFICYP. In stark contrast, the country responsible for the establishment of the Force and its prolonged presence in Cyprus had not made any contribution whatsoever. The lesson to be drawn from the Cyprus peace-keeping effort was that as long as one of the parties concerned was not willing to comply with the dictates of the international community, the result would be the indefinite continuation or perpetuation of the problem. The answer lay not in abandoning the peace-keeping effort, but in pressing on to ensure the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions by all available means.

69. The only hope of achieving international peace and security for the benefit of all nations, small or large, lay in strengthening the Organization, whose value had been justly recognized four years earlier when the United Nations peace-keeping operations had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

70. Lastly, his delegation expressed its support for draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.7 and L.8.

71. Mr. Khouini (Tunisia) took the Chair.

72. Mr. AMBARTSUMOV (Russian Federation) said that in 1992, the consideration of United Nations peace-keeping operations was taking place under unique circumstances in view of the fact that the changes that had occurred in the general situation had enabled the Organization to carry out its peace-keeping functions on an unprecedented scale, which had dramatically increased the authority of the United Nations. On the other hand, in the territories where totalitarian forces had formerly reigned, local conflicts, primarily inter-ethnic ones, had become more frequent; nationalist extremist groups had acquired unprecedented freedom of action and that had had a poisonous effect on peoples, which could not always be neutralized by the democratic forces in power.

73. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" had given fresh impetus to the discussion of peace-keeping because it reflected all the useful experience accumulated by the United Nations in recent years. The Russian Federation, which was a permanent member of the Security Council, had clearly defined its position with respect to peace-keeping operations; that position was based on compliance with the obligations under the Charter

(Mr. Ambartsumov, Russian Federation)

and had been outlined in the Security Council on 31 January 1992 by President Boris Yeltsin, who had stated that the Russian Federation was prepared to play a practical role in United Nations peace-keeping operations and contribute to their logistical support.

74. His delegation viewed as very constructive the idea expressed in the report of the Secretary-General concerning more active involvement of regional organizations, while maintaining the main responsibility of the Security Council in those matters. Although the Commonwealth of Independent States strived to play an appropriate role in those activities, one could not but recognize that its economic institutions had been unable to function at full capacity owing to some objective and subjective reasons.

75. The Russian Federation believed that it was its responsibility to shoulder a considerable portion of the burden of overcoming bloody conflicts in certain territories of the former Soviet Union, with the consent and upon the request of the parties concerned and, for that reason, attached major importance to studying the peace-keeping experience of the United Nations. The collective peace-keeping forces and military observer groups established by the Commonwealth of Independent States had been fashioned according to the model and standards of the United Nations. In that connection, mention should also be made of the agreement signed by the Commonwealth Heads of State in Kiev on 20 March 1992.

76. At the current time, there were two peace-keeping operations with the participation of Russian military units, namely, in the Trans-Dniester Region and South Ossetia. The operations had had encouraging results since military operations had ceased and people were no longer dying. The Russian Federation had received similar requests from the Tajik authorities and leaders of neighbouring Central Asian republics in connection with the incessant civil war in Tajikistan.

77. The Russian Federation was very interested in involving United Nations forces in such peace-keeping operations, if only at a minimal, symbolic level because it did not want to be accused of reviving imperial policies and, at the same time, could not allow continued loss of life on the part of innocent civilians.

78. The Russian Federation was also expanding its participation in operations conducted in other hotbeds of tension in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. More than 900 Russian nationals were on duty in Yugoslavia and some 140 were in Cambodia, where his country was also providing logistical support for operations. There were Russian military observer groups also on the Iraq-Kuwait border and in Western Sahara and other regions. Russian soldiers and officers, police and civilian experts were participating in those missions in order to facilitate implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping mandate. Nevertheless, the general public in his country, which had tragic memories of the adventure perpetrated in Afghanistan by former leaders, was apprehensive of involving fellow citizens in military operations outside

(Mr. Ambartsumov, Russian Federation)

Russia and, in that respect, the Russian Federation sought the understanding of all.

79. He took note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/47/253) and felt that it was necessary to continue to elaborate and broaden its conclusions in order to take into account the increasing demands placed on United Nations peace-keeping operations in that field and the States providing human, material and financial resources. The recommendation concerning wider participation by States in providing personnel for United Nations operations deserved unqualified support; and, in that connection, the Russian Federation favoured the establishment of voluntary national reserve forces, which would include military units, civilian police officers and civilian experts.

80. The Russian Federation supported expanding the United Nations role in the area of preventive diplomacy, particularly, in preventing international military conflicts. In that connection, consideration should be given to the possibility of setting up demilitarized zones, humanitarian corridors and tranquillity zones and ensuring their status through military contingents.

81. One of the main subjects for consideration by the Special Committee was the development, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, of comprehensive interaction between subregional and regional organizations, specialized agencies and United Nations functional units in order to induce the world community to respond to inter-ethnic and religious conflicts as well as environmental and humanitarian emergencies.

82. Further consideration should be given to the idea of establishing, with the sanction of the Security Council and on a case-by-case basis, mechanisms for deterring potential aggressors and procedures for responding promptly to acts of aggression and threats to international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; the scope of activities of such mechanisms would be pre-determined. In that regard, the time was ripe for implementing the as-yet-unimplemented provisions of articles 42 and 43 of the United Nations Charter. For the first time since the establishment of the United Nations, there were no obstacles to the establishment of forces that could undertake action to maintain or restore international peace and security.

83. With regard to extending the involvement of Russian personnel in peace-keeping operations, the Russian Federation needed to create a sound legal basis for such kinds of activities. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation was considering a bill concerning the terms under which Russian contingents could participate in peace-keeping operations conducted by the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and be made available to the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 43 of the Charter.

84. The Russian Federation attached the utmost importance to the recommendation concerning the enhancement of the security of United Nations

(Mr. Ambartsumov, Russian Federation)

personnel contained in draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.8 which had been introduced by Ukraine and co-sponsored by the Russian Federation. Strong measures must be taken against those who threatened such personnel or interfered with the performance of their functions. It was therefore important to adopt the draft resolution. The mechanism outlined therein could be used successfully to ensure the security of peace-keeping forces on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

85. The financing of peace-keeping operations was becoming an increasingly serious problem for the United Nations. The sources of financing should be diversified and regional organizations and private companies should be encouraged to participate in the financing of peace-building activities since they would benefit from the settlement of conflicts and the restoration of normal trade and economic relations.

86. In view of the growing financial expenditures of peace-keeping operations, it was necessary to ensure that available resources were used in the most effective manner. That was an issue which would have to be considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Fifth Committee, and other financial bodies of the United Nations.

87. Given the dynamic and qualitative evolution of peace-keeping operations, the Special Committee should draft and adopt a declaration on United Nations peace-keeping operations.

88. Mr. JANDL (Austria) said that as the number of peace-keeping operations had increased so had their mandates and tasks expanded and widened: whereas the older peace-keeping operations remained within the traditional doctrine of peace-keeping, the newer operations comprised additional humanitarian, human rights, administrative, electoral and other elements which demonstrated clearly that international peace and security depended not merely on military factors but were inextricably linked to social and humanitarian questions and to various aspects of economic, environmental and development relations.

89. Austria had time and again underlined its conviction that peace and security could not be addressed only from a military standpoint but called for a comprehensive approach that took all those aspects into account. Therefore, when Austria used the term "peace-keeping operations" it was using it in the broader sense of peacemaking, peace-building and preventive efforts. It should also be noted that since a considerable number of the operations concerned civil wars and internal crises or conflicts springing from secession, they must include civilian, administrative and electoral components.

90. The Foreign Ministry of Austria had recently conducted a study on the various kinds of operations, both conventional and new and as many as 18 different categories of peace-keeping operations had been identified. Without going into detail about the characteristics of those 18 categories, it should be noted that because of the special nature of those operations increased activities were needed in the field of peace-building and preventive diplomacy.

(Mr. Jandl, Austria)

91. Hotbeds of crisis, such as the situation prevailing in various parts of the former Soviet Union, needed to be addressed urgently, and called for prompt action, even if it meant that some of the parties to a conflict had not given their agreement to United Nations involvement. In that respect, Austria had in the past, called for a study to determine what characteristics justified United Nations involvement, in a situation, noting that an active role by the United Nations could dramatically increase the prospects for settling confrontations before any blood was spilled. Moreover, if when preventive efforts were successful, there was no need for costly, large-scale operations: the earlier the United Nations became involved, the smaller the financial outlay required and the lesser the danger to peace-keeping personnel; Austria had always emphasized the safety of such personnel and was proud to be a sponsor the draft resolution submitted by Ukraine.

92. Austria hoped that the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace", would be implemented rapidly and that the informal working group would give concrete impetus to the consideration of the recommendations.

93. Austria welcomed the reports of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and hoped that its recommendations would soon be implemented. As to financing, all States must pay their contributions in full and on time; Austria supported the Secretary-General's proposal to charge interest on the amounts of assessed contributions that were not paid on time. It also supported the idea of financing peace-keeping operations from defence budgets, and of establishing a reserve fund for the start-up costs of those operations. Austria deplored the anomalous financing system of UNFICYP.

94. With regard to the Special Committee's comments, he said that Austria welcomed the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat and the augmentation under the heading "organization and effectiveness" (A/47/253, sect. III), of the military and civilian staff of the Secretariat. It hoped that the consultation mechanisms envisaged in General Assembly resolution 41/213 would be maintained, and that all the existing possibilities for consultations with the members concerned would be fully utilized. In that respect, he drew attention to the recommendation contained in paragraph 20, of that section of the report.

95. With regard to the heading "Resources" in the same section, he said that his delegation attached great importance to questions of training for peace-keeping personnel. Austria was expanding its training capabilities for military observers. Over the past years, training courses had been opened for international participation, and Austria hoped that more and more countries would benefit from its programmes.

96. With regard to the heading "Development of peace-keeping", in view of the increasing importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations Austria had proposed the creation of liaison mechanisms between the United Nations and relevant institutions. In the same context,

(Mr. Jandl, Austria)

Austria welcomed the Committee's report on its intersessional meeting on "The agenda for peace".

97. Mr. EKOUMILONG (Cameroon) said that the reports of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" stressed the growing importance of peace-keeping operations, which were growing in number and becoming increasingly diversified. The United Nations increased capacity to participate in peacemaking and the solution of internal or international conflicts was one of the fortunate consequences of the end of the cold war.

98. Cameroon welcomed that development, but recognized that much still remained to be done since, while some conflicts were being finally resolved, others were emerging. In that situation, particular emphasis should be placed on preventive diplomacy, concentrated on human rights violations, the resurgence of nationalisms and ethnic and religious antagonisms, poverty and ignorance.

99. Preventive diplomacy, however, should not obscure the importance of peace-keeping operations as such. In that respect, he pointed out that all Member States should pay their contributions to those operations on time and in full and should, to the extent of their capabilities, make available military or civilian personnel or any other type of assistance required for such operations. The Organization's precarious financial situation gave cause for concern. In general, the system for the assessment of contributions was satisfactory, but there were still some imperfections which needed to be studied, above all regarding the classification of certain States in group D.

100. With regard to the generally accepted need to promote a better regional balance in participation in peace-keeping operations, Cameroon, which had some experience in that respect and was aware of the difficulties involved in assembling the heavy equipment needed for a military contingent on short notice, was in favour of continued consideration of the question. On the basis of that same experience, his delegation, like a number of others, had suggested that coordination in the organization of operations at the Secretariat level needed to be improved; in that respect, it believed that the establishment of the Department of peace-keeping operations would help overcome the difficulties inherent in organizing such operations.

101. With regard to the value of regional agreements for the solution of individual conflicts, his delegation drew attention to the initiative of the member States of the Economic Community of Central African States in establishing an advisory committee responsible for security questions at the level of that subregion. That Committee had approved various recommendations at its organizational meeting, held at Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1991, including the establishment of a regional centre for the training of personnel for peace-keeping operations.

(Mr. Ekoumilong, Cameroon)

102. Cameroon wished to thank the United Nations for the assistance it had given to the process of implementing confidence-building measures in the subregion, and was proud to have been able to contribute to peace-keeping operations in Cambodia by providing a group of military observers and a police contingent.

103. The CHAIRMAN said that, the Committee would continue its consideration of agenda item 75 at its morning meeting on Friday, 13 November, and would take action on draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.7 and L.8 on that item. It would begin its consideration of agenda item 76 at 10 a.m. on Monday, 16 November. The list of speakers on that item would open on the morning of Friday, 13 November so that delegations would have sufficient time to include their names on it.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.